

The following are some of the various regulatory agencies that regulate plating shops within San Diego County. A plating shop owner or operator will most often encounter local agencies rather than federal or state agencies. However, federal and state agencies do maintain their jurisdiction and may at any time decide to inspect a plating shop within San Diego County.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

The USEPA is the federal agency responsible for developing and enforcing all environmental laws and regulations in the United States. USEPA works to develop and enforce regulations that implement environmental laws enacted by Congress. These laws and regulations range from those that protect the air, water, land as well as public health and safety. Some of the laws and regulations that USEPA administers are: the Clean Air Act (CAA); the Clean Water Act (CWA); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund); the Emergency Planning & Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA); the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA); the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA); and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). USEPA is responsible for researching and setting national standards for a variety of environmental programs, and delegates to states and tribes the responsibility for issuing permits and for monitoring and enforcing compliance. Where national standards are not met, USEPA can issue sanctions and take other steps to assist the states and tribes in reaching the desired levels of environmental quality.

CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCIES

California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA)

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) was created in 1991 by the Governor's Executive Order. The six Boards, Departments, and Office were placed within Cal/EPA's "umbrella" to create a cabinet level voice for the protection of human health and the environment and to assure the coordinated deployment of State resources. The six Boards, Departments and Office are: the Air Resources Board; the Integrated Waste Management Board; the State Water Resources Control Board; the Department of Pesticide Regulation; the Department of Toxic Substances Control; and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

California Air Resources Board

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) oversees programs for cleaner air ranging from research and regulation to enforcement and education. The ARB sets and enforces emission standards for motor vehicles, fuels, and consumer products; sets health-based air quality standards; conducts research; monitors air quality; identifies and sets control measures for toxic air contaminants; provides compliance assistance for businesses; produces education and outreach programs and materials; oversees and assists local air quality districts such as the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District which regulates most non-vehicular sources of air pollution.

State Water Resources Control Board

The State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) oversees various water protection programs throughout the state. Of importance to many businesses is the underground storage tank program (UST). The purpose of the UST Program is to protect public health and safety and the environment from releases of petroleum and other hazardous substances from tanks. There are four program elements: leak prevention, cleanup, enforcement, and tank testing.

Department of Toxic Substances Control

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) regulates hazardous waste, oversees clean-up of existing contamination, and looks for ways to reduce the hazardous waste produced in California. DTSC establishes and implements protective and clean-up programs and standards. An estimated 90,000 properties throughout the State - including former industrial properties, school sites, military bases, small businesses and landfills - are contaminated, or believed to be contaminated, with some level of toxic substances. Some of these are "brownfield," sites that often sit idle or underused, contributing to both urban blight and urban sprawl. The USEPA authorizes DTSC to carry out the hazardous waste programs in California including permitting, inspection, compliance, and corrective action programs to ensure that all state and federal hazardous waste requirements are followed. DTSC also oversees the implementation of the hazardous waste generator and onsite treatment program, one of the six environmental programs at the local level consolidated within the Unified Program.

California Occupational Health and Safety Administration

The California Occupational Health and Safety Administration (Cal/OSHA) is a program under the California Division of Occupational Health and Safety responsible for enforcing California laws and regulations pertaining to workplace safety and health and for providing assistance to employers and workers about workplace safety and health issues. The Cal/OSHA Enforcement Unit conducts inspections of California workplaces based on worker complaints, accident reports and high hazard industries. The Cal/OSHA Consultation Service provides assistance to employers and workers about workplace safety and health through on-site assistance, high hazard consultation and special emphasis programs, and develops educational materials on workplace safety and health topics.

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is one of nine regional boards within the State of California. The Regional Board adopted and updated the municipal storm water permit for San Diego County. The permit regulates discharges that are currently the greatest sources of contamination and pollution that impact water bodies in San Diego County. Point sources from businesses are regulated sources. The Regional Board takes aggressive compliance actions against operators that do not follow storm water management practices.

LOCAL AGENCIES

San Diego County Department of Environmental Health Hazardous Materials Division

The Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) is one of the four divisions of the Department of Environmental Health (DEH). HMD is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for San Diego County responsible for regulating hazardous materials business plans and chemical inventory, hazardous waste and tiered permitting, underground storage tanks, and risk management plans. HMD is also responsible for regulating medical waste.

San Diego County Air Pollution Control District

The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) is the regional agency responsible for attaining federal and state ambient-air-related public health standards and implementing associated requirements for federal and state law. The APCD adopts rules to control air pollution and long-term regional implementation plans to achieve mandated long-term pollution reductions. The APCD implements these rules and long term plans through permitting, business inspections, and other regulatory programs. In addition, the APCD provides substantial public information regarding air pollution matters and monitors pollution levels throughout the region.

Industrial Waste Water Programs

Various Industrial Waste Water Control Programs within the County apply and enforce discharge limits that protect the collection system, the treatment plant, and the ocean. These programs regulate local industry to control contaminants before they enter the sewer system. The programs issue discharge permits, perform inspections, conduct waste water monitoring, and enforce sewer discharge standards at businesses and industries throughout their service area. Some types of local industries that are regulated to prevent contaminants from entering the sewage system include: aerospace manufacturing; metal forming, casting and finishing; pharmaceutical manufacturing; hospitals and medical centers; film processors; laundries and dry cleaners; and a variety of laboratories. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified a list of priority pollutants that are either prohibited or strictly limited in discharges to the sewage system. Some of the common toxic pollutants include: arsenic, benzenes, chloroform, cyanide, phenols, pesticides, and heavy metals such as cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, silver and zinc.

Fire Prevention Departments and Fire Prevention Districts

There are various fire prevention departments and districts throughout San Diego County that regulate the storage of hazardous materials through the Uniform Fire Code (UFC) and the Uniform Building Code (UBC). The UFC is published by the International Fire Code Institute and the UBC is published by the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO).

REFERENCES:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	http://www.epa.gov
California Environmental Protection Agency	http://www.calepa.ca.gov
California Air Resources Board	http://www.arb.ca.gov
California State Water Resources Board	http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust
California Department of Toxic Substances Control	http://www.dtsc.ca.gov
California Occupational Health & Safety	http://www.dir.ca.gov/occupational_safety.html
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/
San Diego County Department of Environmental Health Hazardous Materials Division	http://www.sdcdeh.org
San Diego County Air Pollution Control District	http://www.sdapcd.org/index.html